

Information Circular

INFCIRC/549/Add.6/24

Date: 14 October 2022

General Distribution

Original: English

Communication Received from the United States of America Concerning its Policies Regarding the Management of Plutonium

1. The Secretariat has received a note verbale dated 4 October 2022 from the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the IAEA in the enclosures of which the Government of the United States of America, in keeping with its commitment under the Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium (contained in INFCIRC/549¹ of 16 March 1998 and hereinafter referred to as the “Guidelines”), and in accordance with Annexes B and C of the Guidelines, has made available annual figures for its holdings of civil unirradiated plutonium and the estimated amounts of plutonium contained in spent civil reactor fuel as of 31 December 2021.

2. In light of the request expressed by the Government of the United States of America in its note verbale of 1 December 1997 concerning its policies regarding the management of plutonium (INFCIRC/549 of 16 March 1998), the note verbale of 4 October 2022 and the enclosures therewith are attached for the information of all Member States.

¹ A modification to this document was issued on 17 August 2009 (INFCIRC/549/Mod.1).

NOTE VERBALE

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The Permanent Mission of the United States to International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and has the honor to transmit the 2021 Annual Civil Plutonium Holdings Report. The report fulfills the commitment for the 2021 annual declarations under INFCIRC/549, the Plutonium Management Guidelines. Annexes B and C of the Guidelines provide the type and format of information to be reported in these declarations. The data is current as of December 31, 2021.

The Permanent Mission of United States avails itself of this opportunity of reiterating to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.

United States Mission to International Organizations in Vienna

October 4, 2022,

Vienna, Austria.



Attachments:

- Annual Figures for Holdings of Civil Unirradiated Plutonium Annex B
- Estimated Amounts of Plutonium Contained in Spent Civil Reactor Fuel Annex C

ANNUAL FIGURES FOR HOLDINGS OF CIVIL UNIRRADIATED PLUTONIUM

(Annex B, International Plutonium Management Guidelines)

National Totals

As of 31 December 2021
[Previous year's figures in brackets]
Rounded to 100 kg plutonium
Quantities <50 kg reported as such

1. Unirradiated separated plutonium in product stores at reprocessing plants.	0	[0]
2. Unirradiated separated plutonium in the course of manufacture or fabrication and plutonium contained in unirradiated semi-fabricated or unfinished products at fuel or other fabricating plants or elsewhere.	<0.05 MT	[<0.05 MT]
3. Plutonium contained in unirradiated MOX fuel or other fabricated products at reactor sites or elsewhere.	4.6 MT	[4.6 MT]
4. Unirradiated separated plutonium held elsewhere.	44.8 MT	[44.8 MT]
(i) Plutonium in lines 1-4 belonging to foreign bodies.	0	[0]
(ii) Plutonium in lines 1-4 held in locations in other countries and therefore not included above.	0	[0]
(iii) Plutonium in lines 1-4 which is in international shipment prior to its arrival in the recipient State.	0	[0]

Notes:

Lines 3 and 4 together list 49.4 metric tons (MT) of separated plutonium that has been declared as excess to national security needs. This, in addition to 7.8 MT of the plutonium included on lines 1 and 3 of Annex C, 4.5 MT that has been disposed to waste after termination of safeguards, and 0.2 MT lost to radioactive decay (all after September 1994), constitute a total of 61.9 MT: 61.5 MT of government owned plutonium that the United States has declared as excess to national security needs and 0.4 MT accepted by the United States from other nations under nuclear nonproliferation programs.

ESTIMATED AMOUNTS OF PLUTONIUM CONTAINED IN SPENT CIVIL REACTOR FUEL

(Annex C, International Plutonium Management Guidelines)

National Totals	As of 31 December 2021 [Previous year's figures in brackets] Rounded to 1000 kg plutonium Quantities <500 kg reported as such	
1. Plutonium contained in spent fuel at civil reactor sites.	771 MT	[753 MT]
2. Plutonium contained in spent fuel at reprocessing plants.	0	[0]
3. Plutonium contained in spent fuel held elsewhere.	12 MT	[12 MT]

Notes:

Line 1 includes 0.1 metric tons (MT) of formerly government owned plutonium that was transferred to civil reactors and subsequently irradiated. Line 3 includes 7.7 MT of government owned plutonium estimated to be remaining in spent fuel that has been declared as excess to national security needs. These, in addition to 49.4 MT of separated plutonium reported in lines 3 and 4 in Annex B, 4.5 MT that has been disposed to waste after termination of safeguards, and 0.2 MT lost to radioactive decay, constitute the total of 61.9 MT of government-owned plutonium that the United States has declared as excess to national security needs or received from other nations under nuclear nonproliferation programs. Not shown is an estimated 65 MT of plutonium created in active civilian reactor charges.